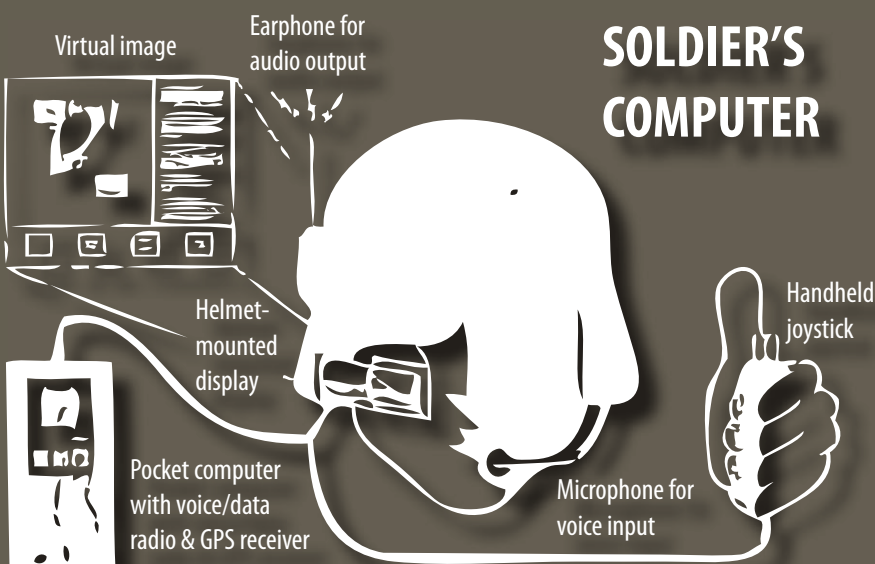


# User interfaces

Early *Tech Trend Notes* articles on user interfaces projected dramatic increases in communications effectiveness and efficiency for US forces. Some of those predictions were that soldiers would be able to communicate while on the move with any other soldier, terminal, or telephone [1]; computer-generated maps would change scale and overlay different types of information in response to voice commands; live video would be transmitted to remote commanders [2]; and warfighters would be able to get just the information that they wanted from a single display terminal [3].

Today, smartphones provide mobile communications, maps, and video to anyone who can afford the purchase price and can connect to the Internet. But what of the future? As pointed out by the authors of the proceeding article, new ways of interacting with electronic devices will be driven by the needs of mobile Internet users, who now exceed the number of desktop users [4]. The first change, they predict, will be the replacement of the keyboard with a more flexible and efficient input process.



In 1993, *Tech Trend Notes* (vol. 2, issue 1) featured this figure of a combined computer and radio enabling soldiers to communicate with one another over long distances; the technology was predicted to be available by 1999.